

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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Excerpts from Chapter 3 of

*THE PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY'S LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM
(July 2001)*

It is important to note that the Regional Water Quality Control Board has not placed the county under an order to develop a Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan (SUSWMP). Jurisdictions under SUSWMP orders may need additional measures to address water quality concerns.

As guidance for developing the LCP Watershed and Water Quality Component, the commission suggests the following:

The chapter should include development of findings of fact, for the basis for specific policies, ordinances, and programs. These findings could be developed to include such provisions as the following:

The County finds that uncontrolled drainage and development of land has a significant adverse impact upon the health, safety and welfare of the community. More specifically,

- a) Nonpoint source runoff can carry pollutants into receiving water bodies, degrading water quality;
- b) The increase in nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen accelerates eutrophication of receiving waters, adversely affecting flora and fauna;
- c) Improperly channeling water may increase erosion or lead to excess sedimentation;
- d) Construction requiring the alteration of natural topography and removal of vegetation may increase erosion or lead to excess sedimentation;
- e) Excess sedimentation (siltation) of water bodies resulting from increased erosion decreases their capacity to hold and transport water, interferes with navigation, and harms flora and fauna;
- f) Impervious surfaces increase the volume and rate of stormwater runoff and allow less water to percolate into the soil, thereby decreasing groundwater recharge;
- g) Improperly managed stormwater runoff can increase the incidence and extent of flooding, damaging habitat, as well as endangering property and human life;
- h) Improperly managed stormwater runoff can interfere with the maintenance of optimum salinity in estuarine areas, thereby disrupting biological productivity;
- i) Substantial economic losses result from these adverse impacts on community waters;

- j) Many future problems can be avoided if land is developed in accordance with sound stormwater runoff management practice.

The chapter should include suggested goals and objectives. These goals and objectives could include such provisions as the following:

- a) To protect, restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of coastal waters;
- b) To minimize harm to the community by activities that adversely affect water resources;
- c) To encourage the construction of drainage systems which aesthetically and functionally approximate natural systems;
- d) To encourage the protection of natural systems and the use of them in ways that do not impair their beneficial functioning;
- e) To encourage the use of drainage systems that minimize the consumption of electrical energy or petroleum fuels to move water, remove pollutants, or maintain the systems;
- f) To minimize the transport of pollutants to coastal waters;
- g) To maintain or restore groundwater levels;
- h) To protect, maintain or restore natural salinity levels in estuarine areas;
- i) To minimize excess erosion and sedimentation;
- j) To prevent damage to wetlands;
- k) To prevent damage from flooding, while recognizing that natural fluctuations in water levels are beneficial; and
- l) To protect, restore and maintain the habitat of fish and wildlife.

Included in the chapter should be policies such as the following:

- a) New development shall be designed to maintain predevelopment hydrological conditions to the maximum extent practicable.
- b) New development shall protect the absorption, purifying and retentive functions of natural systems that exist on a site and shall, where possible, restore natural drainage systems.
- c) New development shall minimize pollutant loads.
- d) New development shall minimize impervious surfaces.

The chapter should also include standards and ordinance provisions to implement the policies. These standards could include such provisions as follows:

- a) New development shall implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) necessary to accommodate runoff from the 85th percentile storm runoff as defined by the BMP Design Goal and assure that development maintains peak runoff rates and volumes similar to pre-development rates.
- b) Development shall minimize site disturbance by clustering building site locations and placing roads along contours.

- c) To reduce impervious surfaces, permeable materials shall be used where possible for driveways and walkways. Walkways and driveways shall be limited to the smallest functional size.

A water quality control plan shall be required for projects and activities that require land use permits or a grading permit. (See Recommendations 3-6c, Urban and Rural Development section).